

DC Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

March 3, 2004

Minutes

Attendance: Denise D'Amour, Lyn Stoesen, Ellen Jones, Jim Sebastian, Rudi Schreiber, Chris Craig, Amy Nevel, Jacque Patterson, James Koski

Bike Map Brainstorming

Steve Spindler of Steve Spindler Cartography distributed sample maps and discussed his approach to designing bike maps -- target audience, distribution, usable dimensions, other information included (e.g. safety), etc. Members noted map features they liked -- good paper quality, clear color-coded routes, Metro stations identified. Fond reminiscences of the old 1982 DC bicycle map ensued. Blow-out (zoom-in) maps are suggested.

Mr. Spindler asked: how important is the fact that many cyclists are coming from out of town? Mr. Craig suggested that inter-jurisdictional connections are important. Jones notes that bridge connections and other connecting areas are important, but notes the ADC map is regional. Mr. Sebastian noted that it is a free, DC-oriented map -- shouldn't try to encompass everything inside beltway.

Also include bike shops. What else? Photos? Show the Metro system; perhaps pieces of some nice looking trails. Schreiber suggests schools. Ms. Nevel suggested Metro elevators. There was a discussion of level of Web capability for the map.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January 2004 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Special Guest from Board of Education

Rudi introduced Tommy Wells from the DC Board of Education (wards 5 & 6). He is interested in promoting bicycling to school and intends to educate himself on BAC's work and on what DC Schools are doing. He's looking for ways for schools to be supportive with racks, safety, safe routes, outreach to parents, etc. Wants BAC to work with him on these projects, what policies, etc. Possible change of policy or resolution by board posited.

Sebastian noted his work with some school principals on racks. He also described a grant to WABA for bicycle and pedestrian safety training. It would be great to combine this effort with political support. Mr. Koski urged support for School Board representation on the BAC. Mr. Wells will try to attend meetings. Ms. Jones noted how much bike safety education follows with pedestrian safety. Discussion of having walk/bike to school day.

Denise D'Amour -- Ward 6 update

Denise went over the list of road projects scheduled for 2004. She said that there were not too many important streets for a long time, but Mr. Sebastian thanked her for finding a couple small resurfacing jobs that need bike lanes.

Ms. D'Amour mentioned the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative of which a trail is a key part and needs to be coordinated with development in SE federal center, waterfront, etc.

Ms. Jones asked how angled parking is working out on 8th street? D'Amour -- not working out for cyclists, though more parking for businesses. Has slowed down cars some.

Bicycle Master Plan Update

Bob Schneider of Toole Design gave a presentation on the draft plan including an outline of the plan, goals, core recommendations, discussion of appendices, Bicycle Level of Service index.

There was a question about the usefulness of the bike routes signs. Mr. Sebastian said that after much debate, we have decided to keep, and improve, the signs, adding destination and mileage to them.

Route Network update

Bill Schultheiss gave an update on the route network, including detailed recommendations for downtown. Mr. Sebastian said that more bike lanes downtown are the "holy grail" and might require changing parking or removing a lane of traffic. The bike plan consultants will "crunch the numbers" to determine the feasibility of these proposals.

Other Business

Mr. Schreiber said he is working to get support for bike to work day (May 7) from his employer DOH. He's hoping to coordinate with health initiatives

Tami Sufi of Toole Design joyously welcomed back; congratulations offered on her wee child.

Alexa Viets of the National Capital Park Service mentioned that a visitor transportation study is under way, centered on National Mall. The cope can include bicycles.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm